

more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines to one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines. Yet still further, the actuator may be a stylus made of a conductive material with a tip made of a flexible insulating material, and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0022] According yet further still to the second aspect of the invention, the general purpose input board may be covered by an electrically insulating material and the actuator may be a stylus with at least a tip made of a flexible conductive material and the tip of the stylus, when in the physical contact with the electrically insulating material, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0023] Yet still further according to the second aspect of the invention, the electronic device may be a wireless portable device, a mobile communication device or a mobile phone.

[0024] Still yet further according to the second aspect of the invention, the manipulation signal may be applied by a user of the electronic device, optionally by a way of a mechanical touch using a stylus or a finger.

[0025] According further to the second aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a flexible conductive material and attached to an insulating cover, and the manipulation signal may be applied to the flexible conducting material of the actuator through the insulating cover.

[0026] According still further to the second aspect of the invention, the N conducting lines may be equally spaced, the K conducting lines may be equally spaced and the N-1 contacts may also be equally spaced, wherein each of the N-1 contacts may have an equal distance to any two adjacent parallel conducting lines out of the N conducting lines.

[0027] According yet further still to the second aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide an electrical short between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines to one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines. Further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a direction parallel to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the K further conducting lines and by monitoring a voltage generated in any of the N conducting lines as a result of making the physical contact. Still further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a direction perpendicular to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the N further conducting lines and monitoring a voltage generated in any of the K further conducting lines may be a result of making the physical contact.

[0028] Yet still further according to the second aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and an electrically insulating membrane or a key-

mat may be laid over the surface of the general purpose input board, and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.

[0029] Still yet further according to the second aspect of the invention, the actuation may be provided using a resistive method, a capacitive method, a digital switch method, an optical detection method or an inductive method.

[0030] According to a third aspect of the invention, a general purpose input board for providing an actuator identity signal, comprises of: N conducting lines on the surface of the general purpose input board, the N conducting lines being parallel to each other and electrically isolated from each other; and K further conducting lines beneath the surface of the general purpose input board, the K further conducting lines being parallel to each other and electrically isolated from each other and from the N conducting lines, the K further conducting lines being perpendicular to the N conducting lines, and each of the K further conducting lines has N-1 contacts extending to the surface of the general purpose input board having one such contact of the N-1 contacts between any two of the N parallel conducting lines, wherein N and K are integers of at least a value of two, wherein the actuator identity signal is indicative of a location of an actuator on a surface of the general purpose input board and optionally indicative of a force imposed by the actuator on the general purpose input board.

[0031] According further to the third aspect of the invention, the N conducting lines may be equally spaced, the K conducting lines are equally spaced and the N-1 contacts may also be equally spaced, wherein each of the N-1 contacts may have an equal distance to the any two adjacent parallel conducting lines out of the N conducting lines.

[0032] Further according to the third aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide an electrical short between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines to one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines. Still further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a direction parallel to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the K further conducting lines and by monitoring a voltage generated in any of the N conducting lines as a result of making the physical contact. Yet still further, the location on the surface of the general purpose input board in a further direction perpendicular to the N conducting lines may be determined by applying a different bias voltage to each of the N further conducting lines and monitoring a voltage generated in any of the K further conducting lines as a result of making the physical contact.

[0033] Still further according to the third aspect of the invention, the actuator may be made of a conductive material and an electrically insulating membrane or a keymat may be laid over the surface of the general purpose input board, and the actuator, when in the physical contact with the general purpose input board, may provide a capacitive connection between one or more conductive lines out of the N conductive lines with one or more further conductive lines out of the K further conductive lines.